

cupation that typically can be gained only through completion of a specified curriculum at a recognized college or university; and

(B) is covered by the Group Coverage Qualification Standard for Professional and Scientific Positions; and

(2) the term “research position” means a position in a professional series that primarily involves scientific inquiry or investigation, or research-type exploratory development of a creative or scientific nature, where the knowledge required to perform the work successfully is acquired typically and primarily through graduate study.

(b) The Administration may appoint, without regard to the provisions of section 3304(b) and sections 3309 through 3318, but subject to subsection (c), candidates directly to General Schedule professional, competitive service positions in the Administration for which public notice has been given (in accordance with regulations of the Office of Personnel Management), if—

(1) with respect to a position at the GS-7 level, the individual—

(A) received, within 2 years before the effective date of the appointment, from an accredited institution authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, a baccalaureate degree in a field of study for which possession of that degree in conjunction with academic achievements meets the qualification standards as prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management for the position to which the individual is being appointed; and

(B) achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale and a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for courses in the field of study required to qualify for the position;

(2) with respect to a position at the GS-9 level, the individual—

(A) received, within 2 years before the effective date of the appointment, from an accredited institution authorized to grant graduate degrees, a graduate degree in a field of study for which possession of that degree meets the qualification standards at this grade level as prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management for the position to which the individual is being appointed; and

(B) achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale in graduate coursework in the field of study required for the position;

(3) with respect to a position at the GS-11 level, the individual—

(A) received, within 2 years before the effective date of the appointment, from an accredited institution authorized to grant graduate degrees, a graduate degree in a field of study for which possession of that degree meets the qualification standards at this grade level as prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management for the position to which the individual is being appointed; and

(B) achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale in grad-

uate coursework in the field of study required for the position; or

(4) with respect to a research position at the GS-12 level, the individual—

(A) received, within 2 years before the effective date of the appointment, from an accredited institution authorized to grant graduate degrees, a graduate degree in a field of study for which possession of that degree meets the qualification standards at this grade level as prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management for the position to which the individual is being appointed; and

(B) achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale in graduate coursework in the field of study required for the position.

(c) In making any selections under this section, preference eligibles who meet the criteria for distinguished scholar appointments shall be considered ahead of nonpreference eligibles.

(d) An appointment made under this authority shall be a career-conditional appointment in the competitive civil service.

(Added Pub. L. 108-201, §3(a), Feb. 24, 2004, 118 Stat. 470.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The General Schedule, referred to in subsec. (b), is set out under section 5332 of this title.

### §9811. Travel and transportation expenses of certain new appointees

(a) In this section, the term “new appointee” means—

(1) a person newly appointed or reinstated to Federal service to the Administration to—

(A) a career or career-conditional appointment or an excepted service appointment to a continuing position;

(B) a term appointment;

(C) an excepted service appointment that provides for noncompetitive conversion to a career or career-conditional appointment;

(D) a career or limited term Senior Executive Service appointment;

(E) an appointment made under section 203(c)(2)(A) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (42 U.S.C. 2473(c)(2)(A));

(F) an appointment to a position established under section 3104; or

(G) an appointment to a position established under section 5108; or

(2) a student trainee who, upon completion of academic work, is converted to an appointment in the Administration that is identified in paragraph (1) in accordance with an appropriate authority.

(b) The Administrator may pay the travel, transportation, and relocation expenses of a new appointee to the same extent, in the same manner, and subject to the same conditions as the payment of such expenses under sections 5724, 5724a, 5724b, and 5724c to an employee transferred in the interests of the United States Government.

(Added Pub. L. 108-201, §3(a), Feb. 24, 2004, 118 Stat. 472.)